

# CHILD NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 98-815

TO:	All Public and Private Schools Participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs County Superintendents of Schools Diocesan Superintendents of Schools Child Care Food Program* Summer Food Service Program	ISSUE DATE: July 1998
FROM:	Nutrition Standards Unit	
ATTENTION:	Food Service Directors/Child Care Food Program Directors	
SUBJECT:	Using Meat Sticks as a Meat/Meat Alternate in the Infant Meal Pattern*	
REFERENCES:	MB 98-807	

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Management Bulletin is to provide clarifying information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the texture modification of meat sticks for infants. **Meat sticks may not be credited as a meat/meat alternate in the Infant Meal Pattern, even if the texture is modified (e.g., chopped finely).**

According to All Points Bulletin (APB): CNP-98-5, "Commercial Infant and Other Foods Reimbursable as Meal Components in the Infant Meal Pattern," meat sticks or "finger sticks" (which look like miniature hot dogs) are not reimbursable as a meat/meat alternate in the Infant Meal Pattern because they could present a choking risk in infants and, by the manufacturer's declaration, they are designed to match the skills of children over 12 months of age. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) maintains this policy regardless of whether the product is minced or chopped before it is served to an infant. Since the manufacturer intends for this item to be consumed by toddlers (over 1 year of age), it would not be appropriate for FNS to make an exception based on a caregiver's assurance that the food has been texture modified.

## **CONTACT**

If you have any questions about this Management Bulletin, please call Kelley Knapp, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 445-6774 or at the toll free number (800) 952-5609.

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Kathy

*\*Day Care Home Sponsors:* file in your Day Care Home Nutrition Resource Handbook

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